

Remarks

Favorable reconsideration in view of the here with presented amendment and remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-19 remain in this application. Claims 5, 14, 20 and 21 were withdrawn.

The specification is objected to because of informalities. Applicants enclose a substitute specification which complies with the requirements of subtitles. No new matter is added.

Claims 1-4, 6-13 and 15-19 are objected to because claim 1 is unclear.

The amendment to claim 1 is believed to render this objection to be moot.

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 12 and 15-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the GB reference (268) in view of Brown (990) or Nail.

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The GB reference (268) does not disclose any elongate reinforcement elements in a metal/ceramic composite. The GB reference discloses the following:

“The grooves 18 are filled with a matrix 22 formed a hard particles 23 (see fig. 8) and a binder 24. The particles are of a hard metal carbide such as tungsten carbide, either cast or cemented, or other similar carbide particles which have high degrees of hardness. (...) The particles are closely packed within the grooves and the spaces between them are filled with the binder to form a solid matrix.” (page 2, lines 64 to 76).”

Therefore, the reinforcement elements according to present claim 1 correspond to the hard particles 23 of the GB reference, and the metal/ceramic composite of claim 1 corresponds to the matrix 22 of the GB reference formed by the binder 24 and the particles 23. However, the hard particles 23 according to the GB reference do not have an elongate shape but instead are

spherical, as may be seen, for example, in fig. 8 of the GB reference. Applicants, hence, do not agree with the Examiner's assessment that the GB reference would show elongate reinforcement elements 22 (page 3, line 7 of the office action).

Additionally, the GB reference does not describe elongate reinforcement elements which are arranged parallel to one another and/or axially offset to one another in accordance with amended claim 1.

Brown does not describe elongate ceramic reinforcement elements. The ceramic particles disclosed by Brown have an arbitrary shape and arrangement. Accordingly, Brown also does not teach a parallel arrangement of elongate ceramic reinforcement elements, wherein the ceramic reinforcement elements are arranged axially offset to one another.

Also, Nail does not teach an elongate shape of the ceramic reinforcement elements.

For the above reasons, applicants urge that the Examiner's rejection is in error and reconsideration of this rejection is urged.

Claims 11 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over the GB reference (268) in view of either Brown or Nail as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Schultz.

Applicants traverse this rejection.

Schultz discloses the mounting within a tube of a series of "relatively short cylindrical members F, said members by preference being formed of laminated iron and steel" (page 1, lines 55 to 58). However, these cylindrical members are not arranged axially offset to one another, as now recited in amended claim 1. According to amended claim 1 no gap extending over the whole cross-section occurs within the reinforcement elements at any position along the metal

jacket. In other words, a saw with which, for example, a metal hoop filled with ceramic reinforcement elements should be sawn apart always encounters at least one reinforcement element, irrespective of the position along the metal hoop at which the saw is set on (cf. page 5, last paragraph of the description). This advantage is not achieved by the arrangement according to Schultz, as can be clearly seen from fig. 2 of the Schultz reference.

GB, Brown and Nail have been discussed herein above. For the above reasons, Schultz does not remedy the deficiencies of this combination of references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection is requested.

The Examiner also rejects two of the cited art because an English translation of the art was not filed. Applicants respectfully disagree. On June 28, 2004 a copy of the English language International Preliminary Examination Report was filed. This report indicates the relevance of the cited documents and makes the need for a translation superfluous.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement and an examination of all of the pending claims is requested. It is believed that all of the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action by the Examiner is earnestly solicited.

AUTHORIZATION

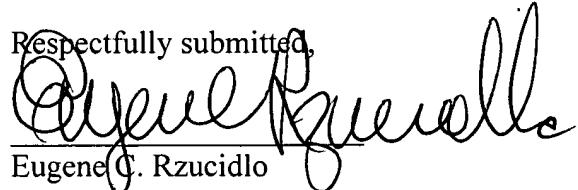
If the Examiner believes that issues may be resolved by telephone interview, the Examiner is respectfully urged to telephone the undersigned at (212) 801-2146. The undersigned may also be contacted by e-mail at ecr@gtlaw.com.

No additional fee is believed to be necessary. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for this amendment, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 50-1561.

Dated: August 3, 2005

By: Respectfully submitted,



Eugene C. Rzucidlo
Registration No. 31,900
Customer Number: 32361
Greenberg Traurig, LLP
200 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10166